

In the claims:

1.-18. (CANCELLED)

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An ankle-foot orthosis for resisting plantarflexion of a patient's foot, the orthosis comprising: ~~an elastic structure~~ a compression stocking formed of contiguous first and second tubular members, said second tubular member being set at an angle to the first tubular member to define, at least in use, a generally L-shaped cavity configured to accept and fit closely about the foot and ankle of the patient; and a rib of silicone elastomer which is formed directly on and thereby attached to ~~permanently bonded or otherwise permanently affixed to~~ a region of the ~~structure~~ compression stocking which overlies the dorsum of the patient's foot in use, said rib ~~being formed of a resiliently flexible material that has~~ having a resilience that is appropriate for resisting the particular degree of plantarflexion experienced by the patient.

20.(CURRENTLY AMENDED) An orthosis according to Claim 19, wherein said ~~elastic structure~~ compression stocking is operable to exert a compressive force on said foot and ankle of said patient.

21. (CANCELLED)

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An orthosis according to Claim 19, wherein said ~~elastic structure~~ compression stocking is woven to provide an elastic stretch in only one direction, said one direction comprising a direction that increases the cross-sectional area of said generally L-shaped cavity.

23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An orthosis according to Claim 20, wherein said compressive force is more or less than at least 5 mm Hg (approximately 670 Pascals).

24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An orthosis according to Claim 20, wherein different regions of the ~~elastic structure~~ compression stocking exert different compressive forces on the foot and ankle of the patient.

25. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** An orthosis according to Claim 24, wherein said second tubular member ~~or at least a portion of said second tubular member~~ exerts a greater compressive force on the foot than the compressive force exerted on the ankle by the first tubular member.

26. **(CANCELLED)**

27. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** An orthosis according to Claim 26 19, wherein the resilience of the rib, as between a first orthosis and a second orthosis, may be varied by varying the thickness of the rib of one orthosis as compared to the other.

28. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** An orthosis according to Claim 26 19, wherein the resilience of the rib, as between a first orthosis and a second orthosis, may be varied by varying the composition of the rib of one orthosis as compared to the other.

29. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** An orthosis according to Claim 26 19, wherein the rib is of 35 to 80 shore silicone elastomer ~~, preferably 65 shore silicone elastomer.~~

30. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** An orthosis according to Claim 19, wherein said rib comprises a pair of proximal wings extending from the rib towards the back of the ankle of the patient.

31. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** An orthosis according to Claim 30, wherein said proximal wings extend in parallel to a proximal edge of the elastic structure.

32. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** An orthosis according to Claim 30, wherein said proximal wings have the same resilience or a different resilience to that of the rib.

33. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** An orthosis according to Claim 19, wherein said rib comprises a pair of distal wings extending from the rib, in the region of the metatarsal heads, towards the plantar aspect of the foot.

34. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** An orthosis according to Claim 33, wherein said distal wings extend generally in parallel to a distal edge of the ~~elastic structure~~ compression stocking.

35. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** An orthosis according to Claim 33, wherein said distal wings have the same resilience or a different resilience to that of the rib.

36. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** An orthosis according to Claim 19, wherein said rib comprises a pair of proximal wings extending from the rib towards the back of the ankle of the patient, and further comprises a pair of distal wings extending from the rib, in the region of the metatarsal heads, towards the plantar aspect of the foot.

37. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A method of manufacturing an orthosis for resisting plantarflexion of patient's foot, the method comprising the steps of:

providing ~~an elastic structure~~ a compression stocking formed of contiguous first and second tubular members set at an angle to one another to define, at least in use, a generally L-shaped cavity configured to accept and fit closely about the foot and ankle of a patient;

mounting the ~~structure~~ compression stocking on a foot-shaped anvil;

preparing a silicone elastomer having a resilience which is appropriate for resisting the particular degree of plantarflexion experienced by the patient;

applying the silicone elastomer directly to the ~~elastic structure~~ compression stocking to thereby form a rib that is attached to the compression stocking and will in use overlie the dorsum of the patient's foot;

allowing the silicone elastomer to cure; and

removing the ~~elastic structure~~ compression stocking from the anvil.

38. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** An ankle-foot orthosis for resisting plantarflexion of a patient's foot, the orthosis comprising:

an elastic compression stocking formed of contiguous first and second woven elastic tubular members, said second tubular member being set at an angle to the first tubular member to define, at least in use, an L-shaped cavity configured to accept and fit closely about the foot and ankle of the patient;

a silicone rib formed directly on and thereby permanently affixed to a region of the stocking which overlies the dorsum of the patient's foot in use,

wherein said rib is configured and arranged to provide a resistance to plantarflexion that is appropriate for resisting the particular degree of plantarflexion experienced by the patient, and

wherein said rib further comprises a pair of proximal wings extending from the rib towards the back of the ankle of the patient, and a pair of distal wings extending from the rib, in the region of the patient's metatarsal heads, towards the plantar aspect of the foot.

39. **(NEW)** An ankle foot orthosis according to Claim 29, wherein said rib is of 65 shore silicone elastomer.